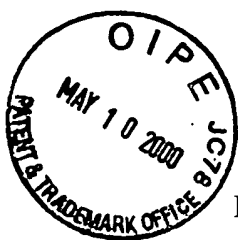


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PATENT
1247-0424P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Sadahiko HINOUE et al.
Application No.: 09/517,163 Group: UNASSIGNED
Filed: April 5, 2000 Examiner: UNASSIGNED
For: INFORMATION PROCESSING APPARATUS

LETTER

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

May 10, 2000

Sir:

Under the provisions of MPEP § 2001.06(b), the Examiner is hereby advised of the following co-pending U.S. Application(s):

<u>Application No.</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Group</u>
RJH 08/779,529	January 7, 1997	
RJH 09/487,883	January 20, 2000	

The subject matter contained in the above-listed co-pending U.S. application(s) may be deemed to relate to the present application, and thus may be material to the prosecution of this instant application.

The above-listed co-pending application(s) is(are) not to be construed as prior art. By bringing the above-listed application(s) to the attention of the Examiner, Applicant(s) do(does) NOT waive any confidentiality concerning the above-listed co-pending application(s) or this application. See MPEP § 101. Furthermore, if said application(s) should not mature into patents, such

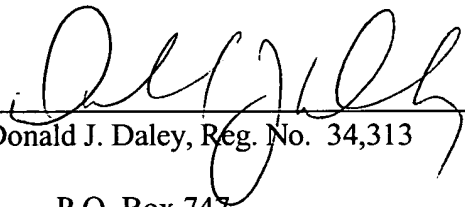
application(s) should be preserved in secrecy under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 122 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.14.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fee required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By


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DJD:kna

(Rev. 03/30/99)